

From: Craig Gates
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 1:53:01 PM

Hope,

Please accept these comments as a direct reflection of where the funding for AIS should come from.

The Cooperative's of Montana stood tall when the need for a call went out to help stop the AIS issue and once again the hydro power users are asked to pay for an issue that they did not create. The plan to stop the spread was quite frankly only effective about 1/3 of the time (due to the number of hours spent checking and cleaning boats).

The fact is very simple, AIS was imported from boats that were let onto the waters of Montana. The cost of fixing the dams that create power from that water are going to incur additional cost that will be the burden of the cooperative member (that did not cause the problem). So, in effect, AIS collection of funds and then fixing the equipment needed to generate power after the AIS takes hold at the dam, is going to create a double taxation to the cooperative members.

The entire burden the AIS situation should lay solely with the those that created the issue, watercraft and recreational users. 100% of the funding should come for the cause causer, not the people that now have to deal with the issue after the fact and pay twice for an AIS issue.

Thank you,

Craig Gates

From: Dede Draper
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 2:03:09 PM

Hello,

I am a Director of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative which serves the West Yellowstone area with electricity.

Last year we participated in funding this incredibly important task because it was an emergency situation. We were assured that this was only a stop gap measure and that permanent funding would not include the hydropower industry in the future.

In my opinion the State's general fund is the fairest source of funding AIS. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS.

We were happy to participate to make sure this happened, but our rate payer/owners should not be burdened with this expense.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Dede Draper

From: Gretchen Boardman
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 4:15:26 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am writing to encourage you to keep the proposed funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species as it is stated as of July 2018. I appreciate that no hydropower was included in the proposal. Being an electrical co-op that did not oppose the fee in 2017 due to Montana's budget shortfall we helped out, *on this one time basis*, in a positive manner to be an assistant to make sure our waters were safe. It is appreciated that the legislative leaders followed suit and allowed the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019. I believe the proposed funding is targeting the right people to help keep the invasive species away and waters safe. All Montanans are victims in this if the aquatic invasive species spread, however, we appreciate and recognize the hard work that the EQC has put together to suggest significant funding from the States general fund which is the appropriate funding source when considering that all Montanans are victims. Thank you for your consideration.

Gretchen Boardman
General Manager
406.654.2040
Big Flat Electric

From: herberts@nemont.net
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018 8:48:56 AM

Dear Hope:

NorVal Electric Cooperative did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. The EQC proposal honors that commitment and thank you for that. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS. We believe that because all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for listening to me.

Doreen Vaira-Herbert
NorVal Electric Cooperative member

From: Allen Martinell
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Funding Options For Aquatic Invasive Species
Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018 5:47:32 PM

Legislative Staffer Hope Stockwell,

I would like to comment on proposed Aquatic Invasive Species legislation funding. First , thank you in advance for your consideration.

In 2017 the electric coops in Montana did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee because of the state budget shortfall we were willing to shoulder the majority of cost to keep the program going. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both the House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognition AIS hydropower fee was intended as a bridge to the next Legislative session.

Legislative leadership made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. The currant EQC proposal honors that commitment.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT SINCE ALL MONTANA CITIZENS WOULD BE IMPACTED BY AN AIS INFESTATION, THE STATE GENERAL FUND IS THE FAIREST SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR AIS.

Thank you for taking action on this important issue and for your consideration.

Best Regards,
Allen Martinell, Board Chairman
Vigilante Electric Coop
Dillon, Montana

From: D.Grob@flathead.coop
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic funding
Date: Saturday, August 4, 2018 9:23:41 AM

It is unfair to raise our rates even more than BPA current rates by charging us for Aquatic species funding. BPA is above market prices. WE ratepayers of BPA are NOT the cause of the problem.

Doug Grob
Flathead Electric Member

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From: Tina Taurman
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic invasive species.
Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 5:55:05 PM

I am pleased with the funding proposal set forth by EQC at the July funding proposal meeting.

As you are aware, legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. Thank you for honoring that commitment.

We, as electric cooperatives, did not oppose the 2017 budgeting proposal as this is a very important issue within our great State. However, hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS. Therefore funding from water craft, fisheries, and other carriers should shoulder the cost.

We believe that because all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your time.

Tina Taurman
Board Director
Lincoln Electric Cooperative
Eureka, MT
Sent from my iPad.

From: Jerry Bygren
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Funding Aquatic Invasive Species
Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 4:56:23 PM

Attn: Environmental Quality Council

As a co-op member and Trustee, I wish to express my approval of the latest funding proposal developed by the EQC.

Electric Cooperatives stepped up to the plate in 2017 when the state experienced a budget shortfall and need funds to get the program started.

The AIS hydro power fees were intended as "bridge funding " only until the next legislative committees meet as committed by the House & Senate. Legislative leaders made a commitment for this Hydro Power fee to have a 2 year life ending in 2019 as scheduled by current state law. The EQC proposal honors that commitment.

Hydro power is NOT a cost causer of the infestations of AIS. Cost causer should be cost payers. The proposed funding plan appears to designate the proper groups including the General Fund and NOT just Hyrdo related co-op members. Since all citizens of Montana would be impacted by the AIS infestation, the states general fund appears to be the fairest source of funding,

Jerry Bygren, Trustee/Member
Flathead Electric Co-op

From: t.crooks@flathead.coop
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding
Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 6:33:08 PM

Greetings Ms. Stockwell,

This note comes to encourage Montana to exclude the funding of the AIS program through legislation which will place the financial burden on the electric coops through BPA.

AIS is a problem of all Montana and having the COOPS carry the load of funding is unfair for the coops themselves and unfair to the individuals in the coop who are not and will not be on the cutting edge of creating the problem. Hydro is not the cost causer in the AIS problem.

Rate payers such a retired folks, single widows and everyone else who never access our water ways are not responsible for the spared of these invasive species. Most are not enlarge in boating or fishing which presents the greatest chance of spreading these nasty bugs etc.

On the other hand it is something that should be funded by all residents within the water system and that logically would come though tax dollars out of the general fund, sportsman and boaters who use the water ways.

It is my understanding that hydro funding was intended to be only a temporary fix and would be excluded in the 2019 scheduling. We should keep that agreement.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my thoughts.

Terry Crooks
650 Granite Creek Road
Libby Montana 59923
406-293-1629

This message has been scanned for malware by Forcepoint. www.forcepoint.com

From: Kris Ingenthron
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 2:34:59 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the expanded program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The EQC proposal honors that commitment.
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Cooperatively yours
Marias River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

From: DeeDee
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 2:39:41 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

As a member of Tongue River Electric Cooperative and Board President I see a lot of Legislation that could or will

impact our Cooperative and its members. I feel strongly that including member owned Cooperatives to help fund the AIS would in fact be a rate driver for our members. I believe that all citizens of Montana

would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is , overall the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Sincerely,

DeeDee Isaacs

Board President

406.784.2720

Tongue River Electric Cooperative

Ashland, MT

From: Raquel Reno-Morast
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Monday, August 13, 2018 3:32:53 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

The electric cooperatives in Montana did not oppose the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) hydropower fee in the 2017 session. We were willing to step to the plate and help get the program going. The understanding was the hydropower fee would end in 2019. Hydropower does not cause the infestations of AIS. All citizens of Montana would be impacted by AIS infestation. The fairest source of funding would be the general fund.

Sincerely,

Raquel Reno-Morast
Vigilante Electric Co-op

From: Rick Knick
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive Species
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 7:56:24 AM

Members
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capital Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. box 201704
Helena MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This letter is our expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal. We appreciate the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because we feel that the AIS problem affects all Montanans, not just those using hydropower.

Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session. In view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going even though hydropower does not promulgate infestation.

We firmly believe that going forward, funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the balance from the state's general fund.

Sincerely,
Rick Knick
General Manager
Sheridan Electric Co-op
Medicine Lake, Montana

From: Marj Cunningham
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 8:16:21 AM

8/14/2018

Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

I am writing this letter in opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal.

I do not feel that hydropower is the cause of the infestation seen in our waterways, and strongly believe that future funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the state's general fund.

Sincerely,

Marj Cunningham
Montana Resident

From: mtheart3@gmail.com
To: Stockwell, Hope; mtlazz@aol.com
Subject: AIS Funding
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 8:21:27 AM

Ms. Stockwell,

As a member of Vigilante Electric Co-op and as a trustee of the Co-op I am opposed to EQC recommending funding for the AIS mitigation efforts which includes any "tax" imposed on energy sales by electric cooperatives. As electric cooperatives in the state of Montana we did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session although hydropower generation is not the cause of the problem related to AIS. In addition we stepped up and helped temporarily bridge the funding until a permanent solution could be determined. We were assured at that time by the legislative leadership that they would allow this temporary AIS funding source to sunset by the 2019 session. We appreciate that the EQC proposed funding honors that commitment. We feel the cost causers should fund the effort to mitigate the AIS infestations. If that is not possible, only then would we recommend that the costs be spread amongst all who would ultimately be impacted. In this case that would mean virtually all of us Montanans and the costs should come from the state's general fund. This happening after a thorough evaluation of the best AIS mitigation tactics is evaluated and strict accountability held for that funding. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Sharon Lasich

2084 MT Highway 41 S

Twin Bridges, MT 59754

Phone 406-684-5792

From: jon@midrivers.com
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding proposal y EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 8:22:32 AM

I'm in support of excluding hydro power from the AIS funding as proposed by legislature's EQC

From: Scott Westlund
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 8:25:40 AM

To whom it may concern;

I fully stand behind this effort to keep the funding sources to fight AIS away from any hydropower. I am a member, who loves the state, yet understands that electric rates affect my entire family.

Please stay away from any hydropower sources of funding.

Scott Westlund

Dear Managers and Directors,

We are issuing this urgent reminder of the need for our co-op people — managers, other staff and directors — to email comments in **support of excluding** hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed by the Legislature's Environmental Quality Council (EQC). To help ensure your comments are seen by EQC prior to its Sept. 12-13 meeting, please submit your comments **no later than August 23**. Comments should be sent to EQC staffer Hope Stockwell. Her email is hstockwell@mt.gov. You can either send an attachment or in the body of the email. Suggested subject line is: "AIS Funding Proposal by EQC." A suggested salutation to use in addressing the Council is: "Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council." We urge you to share this email with co-op staff to ask their help as well.

Individual emails encouraged

We strongly urge that each person **submit individual emails** to Ms. Stockwell, in addition to signing joint letters of comment. At EQC's last meeting it was very apparent that EQC members are counting the number of email comments for and against its funding proposal.

KEY TALKING POINTS for your comments:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the expanded program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The EQC proposal honors that commitment.
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

PLEASE ACT NOW. THIS IS LIKELY OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY PRIOR TO THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THIS CRITICAL ISSUE. Later this week, we will also issue to our grassroots — via short video — another call to action on this issue.

Thank you for your help. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Also, we would appreciate your sending a copy of your comments to us so we can have a better idea of the number of comments being submitted.

Best Regards,

Gary Wiens
Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
(406) 868-9177 (c)
(406) 761-8333 (o)
(406) 761-8339 (f)

Scott Westlund
Member Service and Marketing Manager
Sheridan Electric Cooperative
Medicine Lake, Mt.

From: Brent Kluth
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:02:43 AM

Members

Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This email is an expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal based on the following:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The current EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. Much appreciation is given to the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because AIS is a problem that impacts all Montanans, not just hydropower users.

Thank you honoring the commitments made in the original funding process.

Brent Kluth McCone director

From: Ken Ehli
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:02:49 AM

Sent from my iPadMembers
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This email is an expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal based on the following:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The current EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. Much appreciation is given to the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because AIS is a problem that impacts all Montanans, not just hydropower users.

Thank you honoring the commitments made in the original funding process.

Best Regards,

Ken Ehli

From: A.Ruby@flathead.coop
To: [Stockwell, Wade](#)
Subject: Please exclude hydropower from AIS funding in the future
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:29:42 AM

Hi Wade,

Please add my letter to what I hope is a growing list of concerned citizens asking that the legislature keep their word on excluding hydropower from AIS funding going forward.

I was there as a concerned citizen in the last session as the legislature struggled to come up with funding for this necessary government function. I agreed that we, electric coops with 50% or more of our power from hydro generation, would initially support funding to prevent the spread of AIS that adversely affect our electric generation, irrigation, recreation and property values.

But only the first two years.....not as an ongoing program. Flathead Electric Cooperative voluntarily donated \$35,000.00 each year for two years prior to legislative action to expand the timeline of inspection stations. We recognize the timeliness and the necessity of this activity. But it's wrong to force some electric utilities to collect taxes that benefit the entire population of the state and the country.

The legislature agreed to sunset this hydro funding mechanism in 2019 and it should keep it's word. The broader the tax base for this necessary function, the better. It should NOT be on the backs of a subset of electric utility members when it benefits everyone.

Thank you,

Alan R Ruby
Kalispell, MT

Sent from my iPad

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From: Karen Morales
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:43:14 AM

8/14/2018

Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

I am writing this letter in opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal.

I do not feel that hydropower is the cause of the infestation seen in our waterways, and strongly believe that future funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the state's general fund.

Sincerely,

Karen Morales
Montana Resident

From: W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: RE: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:18:47 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

We strongly urge you to now support excluding hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed. As you are aware, hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS. We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Legislative leadership have stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session, so now it's time to hold them to the commitment they made to allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. We appreciate the EQC's proposal to honor that commitment.

Wendy Ostrom Price

Wendy Ostrom Price
Public Relations Officer
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.
2510 US Highway 2 East
Kalispell, MT. 59901
406-751-1820
w.ostrom-price@flathead.coop
www.flatheadelectric.com

From: Stockwell, Hope [mailto:HStockwell@mt.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 3:21 PM
To: Wendy Ostrom Price <W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop>
Subject: RE: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC

You can resend it if you'd like. I will not alter the original.

From: W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop [mailto:W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 1:18 PM
To: Stockwell, Hope <HStockwell@mt.gov>
Subject: RE: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC

Thank you Hope. Noticed a typo (double up) in salutation. ☹

Wendy Ostrom Price
Public Relations Officer
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.
2510 US Highway 2 East
Kalispell, MT. 59901
406-751-1820
w.ostrom-price@flathead.coop

www.flatheadelectric.com

From: Stockwell, Hope [<mailto:HStockwell@mt.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 12:36 PM
To: Wendy Ostrom Price <W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop>
Subject: RE: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC

Thank you for your comments. They will be given to the Environmental Quality Council for consideration at its September 12-13 meeting.

Hope

Hope Stockwell
Research Analyst
Montana Legislative Services Division
406-444-9280
hstockwell@mt.gov

From: W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop [<mailto:W.Ostrom-Price@flathead.coop>]
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 4:48 PM
To: Stockwell, Hope <HStockwell@mt.gov>
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC

Dear Members of the of the Environmental Quality Council,

Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the expanded program going. We strongly urge you to now support excluding hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed.

As you are aware, hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS. We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Legislative leadership have stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session, so now it's time to hold them to the commitment they made to allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. We appreciate the EQC's proposal to honor that commitment.

Wendy Ostrom Price

Wendy Ostrom Price
Public Relations Officer
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.
2510 US Highway 2 East
Kalispell, MT. 59901
406-751-1820
w.ostrom-price@flathead.coop

www.flatheadelectric.com

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This message originated outside of Flathead Electric.
Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests.

From: Tom
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic invasive species proposal by EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:25:42 PM

Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

My name is Tom Helm. My wife and I live, farm, and have raised a family at Toston on the banks of the Missouri River just upstream from Canyon Ferry Lake. I am a member and trustee of Vigilante Electric Cooperative at Dillon, MT.

Thank you for excluding the hydropower fee in the A.I.S. Funding Proposal. In 2017 our co-op did not oppose the fee that was being placed on our 5000 members because we were assured that it was a 2 year stop gap measure that would be allowed to sunset in 2019. Thank you for honoring that commitment.

Hydropower is not the cost causer when it comes to A.I.S. Infestations. A.I.S. Impact all Montanans. All Montanans should help pay for it.

I, for one, am not convinced that we have aquatic invasive species. I have seen no follow-up sampling results from either Tiber or Canyon Ferry Lakes that confirmed the mussel is here.

Thank you for your time and effort on the council.

--

Tom Helm
406-439-5643

From: Russ &/or Carol Bloom
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding proposal by the EQC
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 6:28:03 AM

Dear EQC members:

This letter is in support of EQC honoring its promise not to include hydro-power as a funding source to halt the spread of aquatic invasive species. During the last legislative session, electric co-ops and other hydro generation entities stepped up and agreed to help fund the program as a one time, emergency measure until long term funding was implemented at the next legislative session. We kept our word: Now it is up to you to keep yours. Hydro generating facilities are not the cause of the invasive species so our rate paying customers should not be expected to shoulder the financial burden.

Thank you.

Russell Bloom D.V.M., Director Sun River Electric Co-Op

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Theresa Haynie
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 10:48:36 AM

Members
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This email is an expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal based on the following:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The current EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. Much appreciation is given to the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because AIS is a problem that impacts all Montanans, not just hydropower users.

Thank you honoring the commitments made in the original funding process.

Best Regards,
Theresa Haynie
PO Box 549
Circle, MT 59215

From: First Name Dave
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: "AIS funding proposal"
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 2:53:40 PM

As a concerned angler hoping to have a voice in this funding proposal.....I say NO !
How ridiculous. The Dams are not going anywhere. The hydroelectric entities continue to make \$\$, therefor I believe they should continue to provide their share of the cost into the future. While the common everyday angler gets only pleasurable recreation on the water bodies, we get zero back financially, only depreciation of our equipment. So what appears to be penalizing anglers (primarily), I would think there is a better way. How about just moderately raising the Conservation fee so EVERYONE would contribute to the funding ?. Sticking it to boater/angler is not right.

David Nester
Whitehall

"You have the rest of your life to solve your problems. How long you live depends on how well you do it."

From: M.Johnson@flathead.coop
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 8:47:22 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

I am writing in support of excluding hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed by the Legislature's EQC. I appreciate the fact that the EQC is following through on the assurances that were given during the 2017 legislative session that other funding sources would be found by 2019 and hydroelectric generation would not be called upon post-2019 to fund AIS mitigation. As a customer of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Flathead Electric Cooperative has seen significant increases in its wholesale power costs over the past decade. The cost trajectory of BPA's wholesale power rates is already unsustainable and to force additional costs on hydroelectric generation would be disastrous.

Hydroelectric generation is not the cause of AIS issues, so it should not be a funding source for AIS mitigation. We support cost causation principles that would have the cost causers, those who bring the AIS into our state, be the cost payers. If that cannot be done, then all Montanans, not just hydroelectric customers, should bear the burden of funding AIS mitigation because all Montanans will be impacted. The funding should come from the State's general fund.

Again, thank you to the EQC for honoring the commitment that was made on record in the 2017 legislature.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark Johnson
General Manager
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.
406-751-4412

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From: Tod and Debbie Young
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposed by EQC
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:05:13 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Council,

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the expanded program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The EQC proposal honors that commitment.
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Tod and Deb Young
Kalispell, MT

From: M.Parrish@flathead.coop
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:56:32 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I support the Council's decision to exclude hydropower from the AIS funding mix. This makes sense to me because hydropower is clearly not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS. I feel that Electric Cooperatives did more than their fair share to help address the budget shortfall in 2017 and as legislative leadership stated during committee and House and Senate floor discussions, the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a temporary measure until the next legislative session. It is my understanding that Legislative leaders made a commitment to sunset the hydropower fee in 2019 and I am pleased to learn that the EQC proposal honors that commitment. Clearly all Montana citizens would be impacted by an AIS infestation which makes the state's general fund the fairest and most appropriate funding source for managing infestations of AIS.

Sincerely,
Mike Parrish

Mike Parrish | O: 406.751.4476 | C: 406.407.3106 |
m.parrish@flathead.coop
Director of Information Technology | Flathead Electric Cooperative
Community ... Innovation ... Reliability <http://www.flatheadelectric.com/>

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From: Ray Ellis
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 12:12:41 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

In the 2017 Legislative session many cooperatives were asked to help fund an new AIS program because of a state budget shortfall. While it was burdensome to our members we agreed that the issue required this extraordinary effort on our part. We did so with the understanding and promise that this tax would sunset in 2019. Legislative leadership made a commitment to us that this would be so.

We are grateful that the EQC proposal honors that commitment. Hydropower is not the cost causer of this infestation but more the victim. All the citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation and for that reason, we believe that the state's general fund is the most fair source of funding for the program.

Thank you for your effort and hard work,

Ray

V. Ray Ellis Jr.
General Manager
Lincoln Electric Cooperative/Rural Propane Services, LLC
PO Box 628
Eureka, MT 59917
406-889-3301

From: Kari Hammond
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:11:01 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Big Flat Electric Cooperative. I live in Malta, MT. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Kari Hammond
Office Manager
Big Flat Electric Co-op., Inc.
406-654-2040

From: Maunder, Jim
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive Species
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:31:45 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am an employee of Ravalli Electric Cooperative. I live in Missoula. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

As a native Montanan and sportsman I feel that every resident of the state should support and be part of the solution not just utilities that purchase power from hydroelectric dam or those utilities the own them. We all use the states water ways and lakes so we should all step up and take care it.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

--

Jim Maunder
Manager of Member Services
jmaunder@ravallielectric.com
(406) 961-3001 ext. 224

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From: Riley Tommerup
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:58:51 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Sheridan Electric Cooperative. I live in Plentywood. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Riley Tommerup

From: Scott Sweeny
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive Species
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 3:44:12 PM

Ms. Stockwell,

I am the manager of Fergus Electric Cooperative and a member of the cooperative. I live near Lewistown and I am emailing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of the legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cause of infestations of AIS and I feel all Montanan's would be negatively impacted by an AIS infestation. Thus in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Scott Sweeney

Sent from my iPad

From: PAULA HILL
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: EQC's Funding Proposal
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 7:26:27 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative. I live in Frenchtown, Montana. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Paula Hill

From: Patrick McNulty
To: Stockwell, Hope
Cc: jhm1918@mtintouch.net
Subject: EQC proposal for AIS funding
Date: Saturday, August 18, 2018 11:04:21 AM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

Please convey my thanks to the EQC for proposing to exclude hydropower from aquatic invasive species funding, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire. I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. Therefore, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you,

Patrick McNulty
956 S. Buffalo Cyn Rd
Buffalo, MT 59418

Member of Fergus Electric Cooperative

From: Bryce Rieger
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Saturday, August 18, 2018 5:16:58 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative. I live in Clinton area. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Bryce Rieger

From: Norman & Michelle Tebay
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: EQC proposed funding
Date: Sunday, August 19, 2018 6:36:40 AM

Dear Members of the EQC,

Because of the lack of possible state funding in 2017, hydropower stepped up to fund the AIS problem. It was agreed this fee would sunset in 2019. The EQC proposal honors that commitment.

All citizens of Montana need to realize the impact of this problem in our waterways, therefore, the state's general fund is the fairest way to fund the AIS problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this serious matter.

Norman Tebay

Member of Vigilante Electric Coop.

From: D.Braaten@flathead.coop
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Sunday, August 19, 2018 8:07:56 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

As a member and also a trustee of Flathead Electric CO-OP I would like to applaud the EQC's funding proposal for AIS. I certainly agree that prevention is of utmost importance on this problem but I just feel the responsibility and funding needs to include all citizens of Montana as well as the Pacific Northwest. Thank you addressing this issue and hopefully you can present tom the legislature a package that includes all the responsible parties.
Thanks. Duane G. Braaten

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From: Brad Bauman
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Funding for Mussel Issue
Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 2:43:15 PM

Hope –

I am a member of Sun River Electric Cooperative. I am writing to share my support for the current proposal of funding for the mussel issue. The cooperatives agreed to a tax for the past two years to give the legislature an opportunity to come up with a permanent funding solution. We have honored our commitment, now please encourage all of the people involved with the committee to honor their commitment of funding this through another method.

Brad Bauman

From: Rod Siring
To: Stockwell, Hope
Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 2:53:28 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am an employee of Vigilante Electric Cooperative. I live in Dillon. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

From: Susan Thraen
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding
Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 3:34:44 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative. I live in Florence. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Susan Thraen

Sent from my iPad

From: Ruth Hinnaland
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Sunset Fee for Hydro
Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 4:06:30 PM

August 20, 2018

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am writing in support of the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support it because it honors the legislative leaders promise to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

In my opinion, hydropower does not cause the infestations of AIS, and as such, should not be responsible for funding their cleanup.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this issue.

Ruth Hinnaland
Circle, MT 59215

From: John Burgmaier
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Hydropower tax
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 7:44:06 AM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Sun River Electric Cooperative. I live near Power Montana. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislator leaders to allow the hydropower fee to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims, For that reason, in my views, the state general fund is, overall the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best regards,
John Burgmaier

From: Dena Hooker
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS hydropower fee
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 10:45:48 AM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative, and I live in Ovando Montana. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,
Dena R Hooker

From: Terry Frost
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 3:24:00 PM

Hope Stockwell,

I am a member of Fergus Electric Cooperative. I live in Roundup MT. I am writing you to let you know my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the states general fund, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best regards,

Terry Frost

From: Tom Alsaker
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 8:39:16 AM

To: Hope Stockwell and Members of the Environmental Quality Council
From: Tom Alsaker 11666 Mullan Rd. Missoula, Mt.

I urge you to exclude hydro power from consideration for future funding of AIS as provided for in the sunset provision of the 2017 Law and current proposal from your committee. Thank You.

From: Dave Kelsey
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive Species
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 9:42:27 AM

Montana Environmental Quality Council,

I am a farmer-rancher in Stillwater County and I'm also a director for Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative. Part of our power portfolio is made up of hydroelectric power and hydroelectric power is not a cost causer in the aquatic invasive species fight.

Electric Cooperatives stepped up initially to help fund this fight, but we were only supposed to be singled out for the original bridge funding to get the fight started.

Most of our membership has nothing to do with contributing to the spread of AIS so we should be singled out to foot the bill again. Our membership can not afford to continue to fund a program we have nothing to do with causing.

Thank you for honoring your commitment to keep electric cooperative users of hydroelectric power out of your latest formula to attack AIS.

Dave Kelsey, Sec.-Treas. Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative

Sent from my iPad

From: Cindy Woods
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 10:31:37 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,
I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative, living in the Pleasant View development in Missoula. I support excluding hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed by the EQC, as proposed. Hydropower does not add cost when it comes to the infestation of the AIS. Those that are contributing to the spread of the mussels, etc. should be paying the cost. From what I've read in our local newspaper, the contributors are mainly boaters and fishermen. Electric cooperatives are not causing the problems. Members of the electric co-operatives, such as myself, should not have to pay the cost to stop the AIS.

I've seen the pictures of infestation. These infestations would impact all citizens of Montana so everyone should have to share the cost. Therefore, I think the state's general fund is the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you.
Cindy Woods
2660 Mary Jane Blvd
Missoula, MT 59808

Cindy Woods
Payroll/Benefits Administrator



Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406.541.6325

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From: Debbie Gaffney
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 11:00:14 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

As an employee of an Electric Cooperative, I support the **exclusion** of hydropower from the AIS funding mix. We truly knew the importance of AIS funding getting off the ground and were willing to help with the idea that the tax would disappear in 2019. Electric Cooperatives are not the source of the AIS infestation, and accordingly should not be targeted for funding this program. It should be dealt with from the General Funds of the State of Montana, as we all, as Montanans are impacted by this issue. Thank you for your time and support of excluding hydropower electric cooperatives from this tax.

Best regards,
Debra S Gaffney

Debbie Gaffney
Chief Financial Officer



Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406.541.6359

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From: Keven Kuhn
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: re: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 12:03:37 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

With respect to the 2017 session and the aquatic invasive species (AIS) hydropower fee, electric cooperatives did not oppose this fee at the time as we understood the state's budget shortfall at that time and we were supportive in getting the AIS program going. The AIS hydropower fee was intended only to bridge the gap to the next legislative session and this was stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations.

Furthermore, our legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. Electric cooperatives ask that the EQC recognize and honor the original intent of the AIS hydropower fee. AIS is a serious threat to Montana's waterbodies and wetlands. They can cause severe damage to local ecosystems, industry and tourism, but hydropower is not the cause of this unfortunate situation. As the impact of continued AIS infestations will affect all Montana citizens, we believe that the state's general fund makes the most sense to fund a battle against AIS.

Respectfully,

Keven Kuhn
IT Administrator



Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406.541.6339

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From: Betty Campbell
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Support for EQC funding proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 1:50:57 PM

Dear Ms Stockwell,

I am a member of Big Flat Electric Cooperative. I live near Hays, Montana. I am writing to let you know I support EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an infestation of AIS, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours truly,

Betty D. Campbell



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From: Scott Odegard
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 3:20:41 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

As you know, those of us who purchase our electricity from hydropower generating plants face added costs in the future as mussells degrade those facilities and require additional maintenance to repair damage. This will increase our electricity rates, Hydropower customers are not a cost driver for the problem, but if we are taxed to help keep mussells in check, AND we pay extra to maintain generation facilities, we are in essence unfairly having to pay twice.

Scott Odegard

From: Sean Eskridge
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 3:46:41 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I am writing to express my concerns over the current proposal to extend the temporary impact fees to electric consumers for the mitigation of aquatic invasive species. The original funding proposals were accepted by the utilities as a stop-gap measure to fund the necessary programs during a budget shortfall year, and this measure was not opposed due to the legislative commitment to a 2019 sunset for the funding measure. I believe that assessing this fee to the utilities is unnecessarily burdensome. This is a financing issue that affects all users of Montana's waterways, many of which are from out of state. I believe that other means of revenue generations that do not unfairly target a group that is not directly responsible for the future infestations is warranted.

Sean Eskridge

Operations Specialist - Certified Loss Control Professional



Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406.546.5008

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From: Brent McRae
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding Proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 9:17:54 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of McCone Electric Cooperative. I live in Jordan, MT. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Brent McRae
Director, McCone Electric Cooperative, Circle, Montana
Sent from my iPad

Hope,

I just wanted to drop a short note and thank you and the EQC for the draft proposal that excludes hydroelectric generation from continuing to pay for the state's aquatic invasive species prevention program. We appreciate being excluded as promised a year ago.

John L. Sokoloski, General Manager
Goldenwest Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 177
Wibaux, MT 59353
(406) 796.2423
gwec@midrivers.com

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From: Patti Murphy
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 1:42:06 PM

Ms. Stockwell,

Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law; I appreciate that EQC's proposal honors that commitment.

It is shown that Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, McCone Electric's members helped pay for the start up cost for the current program and we appreciate the fee not being included in the 2019 proposal.

We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation and for that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your work on this very important issue to all of our members!

Patti Murphy
McCone Electric Cooperative
Board Member

From: Pete Simonich
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic and Invasive Species (AIS) Program Funding
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018 10:56:18 AM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of the Missoula Electric Cooperative. I live in Missoula. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Peter J. Simonich

From: Bryan Case
To: Stockwell, Hope
Cc: Doug Schmier; Joni Amen
Subject: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) FUNDING PROPOSAL
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 12:15:15 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Environmental Quality Council (EQC) Members,

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative is a non-profit electric utility which serves the greater West Yellowstone area. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding proposal.

Fall River Electric did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going. We understand the importance of being proactive with invasive species and knew this funding was essential to protect the water ways in Montana.

In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in the committee and in both the House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session with the expectation that funding mechanism would be set. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law.

Fall River appreciates that the currently EQC proposal honors the commitment previously mentioned. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS.

We believe that because all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims, that the proposed funding seems the appropriate funding solution. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your work on this important matter and for the opportunity to submit comments.

Bryan L. Case
CEO/General Manager
Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative
Office (208)652-7431
Cell (208)709-1263

"Where Service Matters"



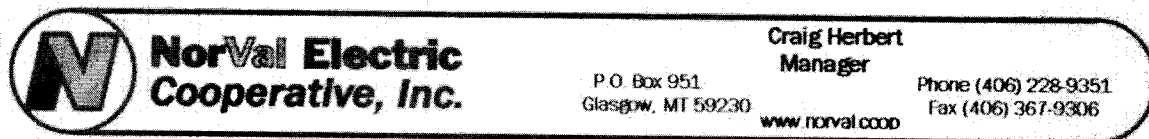
From: Craig Herbert
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018 8:44:56 AM

Dear Hope:

- ✓ Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
- ✓ In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
- ✓ Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
- ✓ The EQC proposal honors that commitment.
- ✓ Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
- ✓ We believe that because all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your time.

Craig Herbert



From: Rollie Miller
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 8:36:26 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Ms. Stockwell,

We are opposed to EQC recommending funding for the AIS mitigation efforts which includes any "tax" imposed on energy sales by electric cooperatives. As electric cooperatives in the state of Montana we did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session. In addition we stepped up and helped temporarily bridge the funding until a permanent solution could be determined. We were assured at that time by the legislative leadership that they would allow this temporary AIS funding source to sunset by the 2019 session. We appreciate that the EQC proposed funding honors that commitment. Hydropower generation is not the cause of the problem related to AIS. We feel the cost causers should fund the effort to mitigate the AIS infestations. If that is not possible, only then would we recommend that the costs be spread amongst all who would ultimately be impacted. In this case that would mean virtually all of us Montanans and the costs should come from the state's general fund. This happening after a thorough evaluation of the best AIS mitigation tactics is evaluated and strict accountability held for that funding. Thank you for your time!

Regards,

Rollie Miller, PE | General Manager | Rollie@vec.coop |

**PH 406.683.2327 | FAX 406.683.4328 | Mobile 406.925.1085 | 225 E. Bannack St. | P.O. Box 1049,
Dillon, MT 59725 |**

www.vec.coop



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From: Dan Rogers
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Support EQC's AIS Funding Proposal
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018 2:59:51 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am an employee of Missoula Electric Cooperative. I am writing to let you know of my **support** for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Dan Rogers
Manager of Member Service



Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406.541.6333

Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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From: Sheryl Dimmitt
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018 3:02:38 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative. I live in Frenchtown, and I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Sheryl Dimmitt

Sheryl Dimmitt
Member Service Representative



Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406-541-4433

Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you.

From: Dana Cyr
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Fee
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018 3:09:16 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative. I live in Frenchtown, MT. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Dana Cyr

From: Emily May
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding
Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 10:25:04 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

We are opposed to the EQC recommending funding for the AIS mitigation efforts which includes any "tax" imposed on energy sales by electric cooperatives. As electric cooperatives in the state of Montana, we did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session. In addition, we stepped up and helped temporarily bridge the funding until a permanent solution could be determined. We were assured at that time by the legislative leadership that they would allow this temporary AIS funding source to sunset by the 2019 session. We appreciate that the EQC proposed funding honors that commitment. Hydropower generation is not the cause of the problem related to AIS. We feel the cost causers should fund the effort to mitigate the AIS infestations. If that is not possible, only then would we recommend that the costs be spread amongst all who would ultimately be impacted. In this case, that would mean virtually all of us Montanans and the costs should come from the state's general fund.

Best regards,

Emily May | Staff Assistant | emily@vec.coop |

PH 406.683.2327 | FAX 406.683.4328 | 225 E. Bannack St. | P.O. Box 1049, Dillon, MT 59725 |

www.vec.coop



From: Michael Hoy
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC
Date: Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:54:55 AM

Members
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This email is an expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal based on the following:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The current EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. Much appreciation is given to the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because AIS is a problem that impacts all Montanans, not just hydropower users.

Thank you honoring the commitments made in the original funding process.

Best Regards,
Michael E. Hoy, CEM
General Manager



P.O Box 368 Circle, Montana 59215
O: 406-485-3430 C: 406-939-3605 E: mhoy@McConeElectric.coop

From: Gary Wiens
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: EQC Funding Proposal for AIS
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 8:10:42 AM
Attachments: 8ED5157F-49DB-4FEE-8889-37D0CC222B11.png

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association supports the Environmental Quality Council's second draft proposed funding mix for AIS because it excludes hydropower as a funding source. Our specific rationale is as follows:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the expanded program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and;
6. We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and we much appreciate the EQC's hard work on this matter.

Best Regards,



Dave Wheelihan
CEO
Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

From: Jim Sands
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:36:53 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of NorVal Electric Cooperative and an employee of Hill County Electric Cooperative. I live in Havre, MT and have a service from NorVal in Nashua, MT. I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on aquatic invasive species. I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower, honoring the commitment of legislative leaders to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. For that reason, in my view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Best Regards,

Jim Sands

VP of Electric & Network
1.800.332.1201 ext 774
Direct 406.394.2774
Cell 406.390.3855



Hill County Electric
Cooperative



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From: Ed Crockett
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Aquatic Invasive species
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 10:04:45 AM
Attachments: image002.png

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am a member of McCone Electric Cooperative Inc. of Circle Montana.
I am writing to let you know of my support for the EQC's funding proposal on Aquatic Invasive Species.

I support this proposal because it excludes hydropower from the funding mix.
Honoring the commitment of legislative leaders, to allow the hydropower fee for AIS to expire.

Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS, and I believe that all Citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, we all would become victims. For that reason, in my view the cost should be placed on the out of state entity's that have caused the problem in Montana,
Be it boaters. Kayaker's, divers, or just out of state campers. Add a tax to them to pay for control of AIS.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments & opinion.



Ed Crockett
McCone Electric Co-op., Inc.
110 Main Street
PO Box 368
Circle, MT 59215
Phone: 406-485-3430 or 1-800-684-3605

Please note my new email addres: ed.crockett@mcconelectric.coop

To: hstockwell@mt.gov

Cc: Bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com; Doug Schmier <Doug.Schmier@fallriverelectric.com>; Joni Amen <Joni.Amen@fallriverelectric.com>

Subject: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) FUNDING PROPOSAL

Dear Environmental Quality Council (EQC) Members,

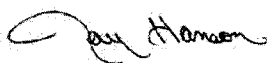
Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative is a non-profit electric utility which serves the greater West Yellowstone area. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding proposal.

Fall River Electric did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going. We understand the importance of being proactive with invasive species and knew this funding was essential to protect the water ways in Montana. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in the committee and in both the House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session with the expectation that funding mechanism would be set. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law.

Fall River appreciates that the currently EQC proposal honors the commitment previously mentioned. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS.

We believe that because all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims, that the proposed funding seems the appropriate funding solution. For that reason, in our view, the state's general fund is, overall, the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your work on this important matter and for the opportunity to submit comments.



Director,
Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative
tetonjay@silverstar.com
(208)709-6661

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111 2nd Ave. SW • Sidney, MT 59270 • 406.433.4100

August 3, 2018

Members
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena MT 59620-1704

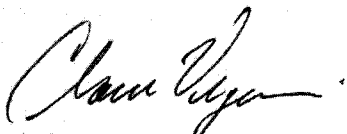
Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council

This letter is our expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal. We appreciate the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because we feel that the AIS problem affects all Montanans, not just those using hydropower.

Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session. In view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going even though hydropower does not promulgate infestation.

We firmly believe that going forward, funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the balance from the state's general fund.

Sincerely,



Claire Vigasaa, General Manager



August 13, 2018

Environmental Quality Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species issue. This is an important issue for Montana. I am proud of the effort electric cooperatives have made to this point, in order to address this issue in a timely manner. However, as electric co-ops are not for profit, increasing costs can only be remedied by increased rates to our members.

When the original AIS hydropower fee was introduced during the 2017 legislative session, electric co-ops, with the knowledge of the state's budget shortfall, did not oppose. In fact, we stepped up and helped get the AIS program rolling. Additionally, even though my co-op falls well below the 50% hydropower threshold, we voluntarily helped pay the fee through our power supplier (Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative) as we felt strongly it was right to act "cooperatively" in addressing this issue. The legislative leadership in committee and during the House and Senate deliberations acknowledged our efforts and recognized that the electric co-op fees were to be used as only bridge financing until the next legislative session. The leaders committed to letting the hydropower fee sunset in 2019.

Thank You for honoring that commitment in your proposal. Simply put, hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species. As most all Montana citizens would be impacted by an AIS infestation, the general fund, along with angler and watercraft fees, seem to be the fairest source of funding to further address this issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon J. Wittman".

Brandon J. Wittman

CEO/General Manager

Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative



PO Box 386
203 Elliott Avenue
Hysham, MT 59038
Phone: (406) 342-5521
Fax: (406) 342-5511
myec@myec.coop

8/3/2018

Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

On behalf of the members, board of trustees, and staff of Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative, this letter is our expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal.

As a cooperative who is heavily reliant on hydropower to supply critical services to the rural areas of Montana, we did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session. We were willing to work with our state and help get a much needed program established. The current EQC proposal honors the commitment made in 2017.

We do not feel that hydropower is the cause of the infestation seen in our waterways, and strongly believe that future funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the state's general fund.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Brothen
CEO
Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative



PO Box 1047
3200 West Holly Street
Sidney, MT 5927
Phone: (406) 488-1602
Fax: (406) 488-6524
www.lyrec.com

8/3/2018

Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

On behalf of the members, board of trustees, and staff of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, this letter is our expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal.

As a cooperative who is heavily reliant on hydropower to supply critical services to the rural areas of Montana, we did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session. We were willing to work with our state and help get a much needed program established. The current EQC proposal honors the commitment made in 2017.

We do not feel that hydropower is the cause of the infestation seen in our waterways, and strongly believe that future funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the state's general fund.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Brothen
CEO
Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative

8/3/2018

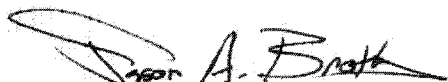
Environmental Quality Council (EQC)
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

I am writing this letter in opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal.

I do not feel that hydropower is the cause of the infestation seen in our waterways, and strongly believe that future funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the state's general fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason A. Brothen". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason A. Brothen
Montana Resident

Members
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This email is an expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal based on the following:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The current EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. Much appreciation is given to the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because AIS is a problem that impacts all Montanans, not just hydropower users.

Thank you honoring the commitments made in the original funding process.

Best Regards,

Members
Environmental Quality Council
Legislative Environmental Policy Office
State Capitol Building
1301 E. 6th Ave., Room 171
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

This email is an expression of opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal based on the following:

1. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and help get the program going;
2. In response, legislative leadership stated on the record in both committee and House and Senate floor deliberations that they recognized the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge to the next legislative session;
3. Legislative leaders made a commitment that they would allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law;
4. The current EQC proposal honors that commitment;
5. Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS;
6. Much appreciation is given to the fact that hydropower is not in the current proposal because AIS is a problem that impacts all Montanans, not just hydropower users.

Thank you honoring the commitments made in the original funding process.

Best Regards,

P.O. BOX 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

I am writing this letter in opposition to using hydropower as a funding source in the Second Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding Proposal.

I do not feel that hydropower is the cause of the infestation seen in our waterways, and strongly believe that future funding should come from the entities that potentially carry the AIS and the state's general fund.

Sincerely,

Patti Lang
Montana Resident



www.mariasriverec.com

Kris Ingenthron *General Manager*

P.O. Box 729

910 W. Roosevelt Hwy

Shelby, MT 59474

Phone: 406-434-5575

Fax: 406-434-2531

August 15, 2018

Subject: AIS Funding Proposal by EDQ

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I am writing in support of **excluding** hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed by the Legislature's Environmental Quality Council. As an accountant, I follow the matching principle which is one of the General Accepted Accounting Principles followed by all accountants. With this principle in mind, shouldn't the fee be matched to the people impacted most by the infestation? Hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to infestations of AIS. I believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation, meaning all would become victims. Therefore, I believe the state's general fund is the best match for the funding for AIS.

Thank you for your time.

Cooperatively yours,

Shirley Kronebusch
Office Manager



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



August 15, 2018

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

Northern Lights, Inc. (NLI) is a member owned electric cooperative based in Sagle, ID with members in Idaho, Washington and Montana. We also own and operate Lake Creek Dam in Troy, MT.

NLI is in support of excluding hydropower from the AIS funding mix as proposed by the Legislature's Environmental Quality Council. Electric cooperatives did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee in the 2017 session because, in view of the state budget shortfall at the time, we were willing to step up to the plate and get the expanded program going. This was on record that the AIS hydropower fee was intended only as a bridge until the next legislative session and would sunset in 2019.

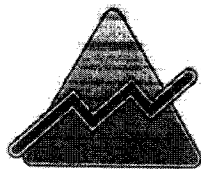
We believe that all citizens of Montana would be impacted by an AIS infestation and for that reason the state's general fund is the fairest source of funding for AIS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie".

Annie Terracciano
General Manager



**Missoula
Electric
Cooperative inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



1700 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
406/541-4433
FAX: 406/541-6318
1-800-352-5200

www.missoulaelectric.com

August 19, 2018

RE: AIS Funding Proposal by EQC

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council;

I am writing to express my appreciation to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) for their efforts in developing an AIS funding proposal that excludes the hydropower fee post-2019.

Hydropower reliant electric cooperatives like Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) recognized the budget challenges faced by the 2017 Legislature, and thus did not oppose the AIS hydropower fee during that session. Legislative leaders also recognized that this was intended to be a bridge until a more equitable funding solution could be determined, and made a commitment to allow the hydropower fee to sunset in 2019.

I agree with the EQC funding proposal because hydropower is not a cost causer when it comes to the spread of AIS in Montana, and the EQC proposal appropriately redirects a portion of costs to those vectors posing the greatest risk. In addition, all citizens of Montana would be negatively impacted by an AIS infestation, and for that reason, the state's general fund is the fairest source of funding for AIS prevention above and beyond fees charged to those cost causers.

Thank you to the EQC for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Mark Hayden
General Manager
Missoula Electric Cooperative
(406) 541 - 6340

**Flathead Electric Cooperative
Glacier Electric Cooperative
Lincoln Electric Cooperative
Mission Valley Power**

**Missoula Electric Cooperative
Ravalli County Electric Cooperative
Vigilante Electric Cooperative
Western MT G&T**

August 15, 2018

Legislative Services Division
Attn: Hope Stockwell
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620

Submitted by Mail and Electronically to: hstockwell@mt.gov

Re: AIS Funding Proposal

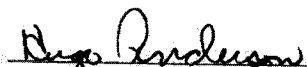
Dear Environmental Quality Council:

Western Montana G&T and its member utilities appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal for a new funding structure for Montana's Aquatic Invasive Species program. The hydroelectric fees imposed on us during the 2017 legislative session were difficult to understand given the fact that our members don't own or operate hydroelectric facilities that would be impacted by AIS. We own and operate distribution systems and deliver power purchased through the Bonneville Power Administration that also does not own or operate any hydroelectric facilities. The actual federal owner and operator of facilities that could be impacted by AIS are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. We do understand that the state was facing a budget shortfall in 2017 and it was a difficult decision on who would get harmed to fund this emerging priority.


We are very mindful of the difficulty of setting rates and fees and live through these challenges on a regular basis. Our BPA rates have increased at nearly double the rate of inflation over the last decade driving BPA rates quickly up to levels that threaten financial viability and competitiveness. The funding sources proposed by EQC appear to be based on cost causation principles. We remain mindful of the challenge facing the legislature and hope that a new funding structure can be a durable solution for Montana's aquatic invasive species programs.


We very much appreciate that legislative leadership intended that the AIS hydropower fee was to be used only as a bridge to the next legislative session with a commitment that the hydropower fee would sunset in 2019 as scheduled under current state law. The EQC proposal honors that commitment and we offer our support for the proposed funding structure.


Sincerely,

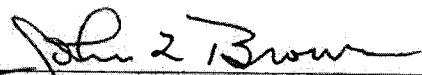

Hugo Anderson, General Manager, Glacier Electric Cooperative

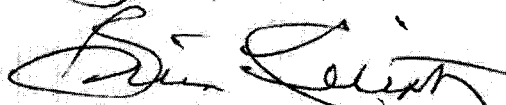

Zita Bremner, President, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees



Willard Hjartarson, Vice President, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees



Darrol Berkram, Secretary/Treasurer, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees



Bruce Bradley, Trustee, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees


John Brown, Trustee, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees


Brian Elliott, Trustee, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees


Colleen Gustafson, Trustee, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees



Miles Lewis, Trustee, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees

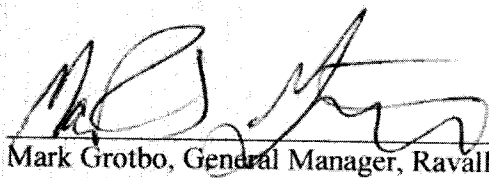

Jim Taylor, Trustee, Glacier Electric Board of Trustees


Gordon Fyant, Vice Chair, MVP Utility Board

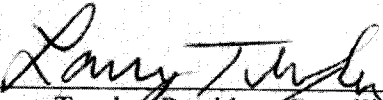
Germaine White, MVP Utility Board

Ellie Bundy-McLeod, MVP Utility Board

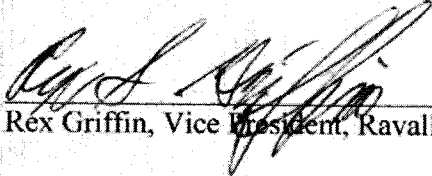

Allen Sloan, Secretary, MVP Utility Board



Mark Grotbo, General Manager, Ravalli County Electric Cooperative



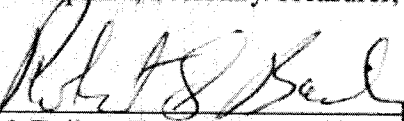
Larry Trexler, President, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees



Rex Griffin, Vice President, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees



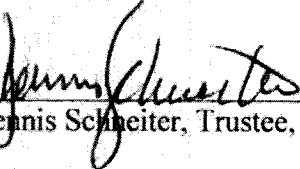
Bob Popham, Secretary/Treasurer, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees



Bob Bailey, Trustee, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees



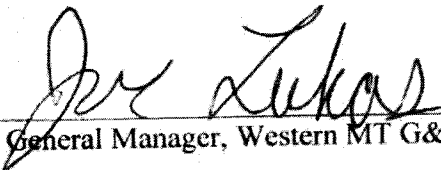
Wayne Olson, Trustee, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees




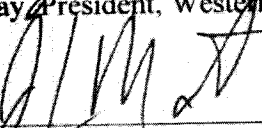
Dennis Schreiter, Trustee, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees




Brien Weber, Trustee, Ravalli County Electric Board of Trustees


Joe Lukas, General Manager, Western MT G&T

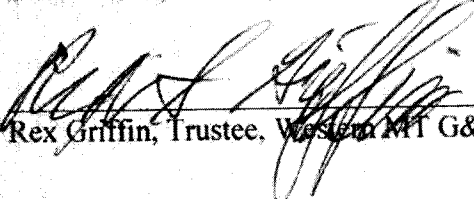

Norm Tebay, President, Western MT G&T Board of Trustees

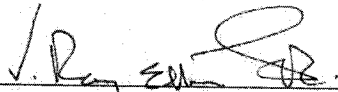

Jean Matt, Vice President, Western MT G&T Board of Trustees

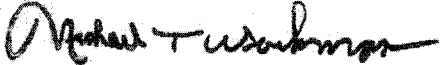

Doug Grob, Secretary/Treasurer, Western MT G&T Board of Trustees

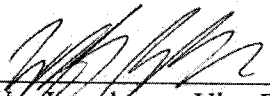

Tom Alsaker, Trustee, Western MT G&T Board of Trustees


Brian Elliott, Trustee, Western MT G&T Board of Trustees

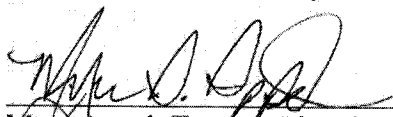

Rex Griffin, Trustee, Western MT G&T Board of Trustees

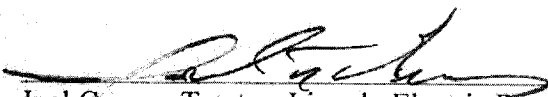

Ray Ellis, General Manager, Lincoln Electric Cooperative


Mike Workman, President, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees


Wes Loughman, Vice President, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees

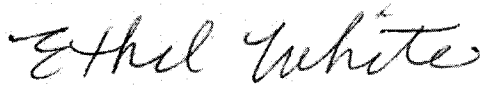
Courtney Pluid, Secretary/Treasurer, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees


Myra Appel, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees

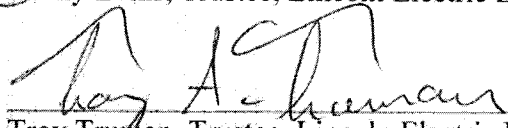

Joel Graves, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees

Marianne Roose, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees



Tina Taurman, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees



Ethel White, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees

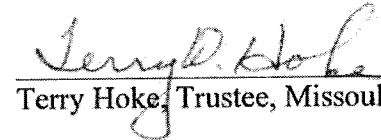

Becky Evins, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees



Troy Truman, Trustee, Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees

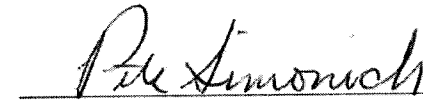

Susan Thraen, Vice President, Missoula Electric Board of Trustees

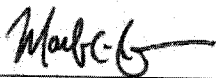

Ray Cebulski, Secretary/Treasurer, Missoula Electric Board of Trustees


Chuck Drinville, Trustee, Missoula Electric Board of Trustees

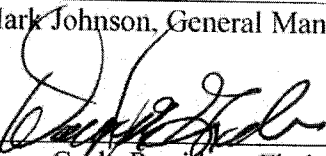

Terry Hoke, Trustee, Missoula Electric Board of Trustees


Dena Hooker, Trustee, Missoula Electric Board of Trustees


Pete Simonich, Trustee, Missoula Electric Board of Trustees



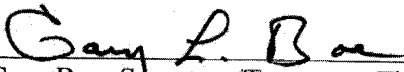
Mark Johnson, General Manager, Flathead Electric Cooperative



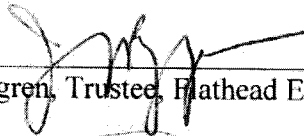
Doug Grieb, President, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Duane Braaten, Vice President, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Gary Boe, Secretary/Treasurer, Flathead Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees



Jerry Bygren, Trustee, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Terry Crooks, Trustee, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Jay Downen, Trustee, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Alan Ruby, Trustee, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Stacey Schnebel, Trustee, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees



Emery Smith, Trustee, Flathead Electric Board of Trustees

AIS Funding Proposal Comments Received Since EQC Mailing

From: Dane Huzarski
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal
Date: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 9:19:55 PM

Dear Hope:

I'm writing to express my concerns on the Environmental Quality Council's (Council) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

I urge the Council to continue to fund a portion of the AIS Program with hydroelectric power funds. I find it ridiculous that the council is considering discontinuing requiring funds from the hydroelectric funds as they are the group that stands the most to lose. These fees not only provided much of our AIS Program's funding, but provided a necessary awareness to all users that could potentially be affected by an AIS invasion. We have been lucky that to date we have been unaffected by AIS at our power generation facilities. If AIS invades our waters, hydroelectric facilities would be greatly affected. What then? Reinstate a fee that has been previously omitted? We urge the Council to continue funding our AIS Program through this unique and innovative source.

I strongly urge the Council to not pursue any form of commercial watercraft fee to help fund our AIS Program. Just as the nonresident fishing license fee was a punishment towards nonresident anglers, this fee would be an unwarranted punishment to guides and outfitters across Montana that are our leaders in protecting our waters from AIS and bringing AIS awareness to our clients and so many others that use the waters of Montana for recreation. This unwarranted fee on commercial users would also be an additional financial burden adding to the fees already paid for a non-motorized or motorized, resident or non-resident watercraft fee, or their fees already paid for their resident or non-resident fishing license. Further, the fee would be an additional financial expense in addition to the fees paid by their resident or non-resident paying clients coming to Montana to experience our great water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on Council's AIS funding.

Regards,

Dane Huzarski

Good morning Hope,
I don't know if it is too late to submit these or not. At our quarterly meeting, some of the members expressed concern over using gas tax to support the AIS program as it may take from resources that support local roads and bridges. This is a supplement to our previous comments that retracts support for the gas tax portion.

The motorized watercraft generated gas tax is not supported by MRCDC for concern that it will take from resources that support local roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

Rachel Frost, Coordinator
Missouri River Conservation Districts Council
www.missouririvercouncil.info
mrcdc@macdnet.org
406-454-0056

From: Wayne Egbert
To: Stockwell, Hope
Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018 7:50:38 AM

Wow when are they going to stop? My fishing license will now cost 200 and whatever everyone else pays ? That's definitely not ok with me

From: Jed Fitzpatrick
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS fee
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 12:17:02 PM

Dear Hope,

I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed AIS fee of \$100 that is to be charged to Montana guides and outfitters. I feel we are unfairly being targeted to fund this program, when we are the ones who educate people the most about AIS. Furthermore, our boats are non-motorized and spend very little time in the water, so the risk of our watercraft transmitting aquatic invasive species is very little. Most aquatic invasive species are transported through motorized vessels that sit for months on bodies of water, accumulating hitchhikers for the next body of water the owner launches onto.

Montana outfitters and guides already shoulder a tremendous financial burden to run these programs. I feel we are an easy target because we have to purchase whatever permit is deemed upon us in order to operate our businesses. We bring tens of millions of dollars into this economy for the benefit of all other Montana businesses, yet our contributions go unnoticed and unappreciated by our governance who seem to come up with a new "fee" each and every year.

From the FAS fee of \$100 (which I have seen no improvements to our access launches since this fee was instated), to the rise in cost of nonresident and resident fishing licenses through the AIS fee, let alone our professional licensing fee, individual river use fees, and required insurance premiums; we are being unfairly priced out and singled out to fund these various programs for little to no benefit to ourselves.

In closing, please support Montana outfitters and guides and our enormous contribution to the Montana economy by rejecting this new AIS fee of \$100 placed squarely on our shoulders. It is unfair, unjustified, and an unnecessary burden to hard-working Montana guides and outfitters.

Sincerely,

Jed Fitzpatrick
MT Outfitter #8392
244 Hoss Drive
Hamilton, MT 59840
Bitterrootriverguides.com

Sent from a Montana trout stream

From: Devin Scheurn
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 4:07:17 PM

Dear Hope,

I'm writing on behalf of our 800-plus members and Board of Directors of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM) to express our comments on the Environmental Quality Council's (Council) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

We fully support the Council's work and understanding to generate AIS Program funding through a more equitably-represented fishing license fee between resident and non-residents. The disproportionate fee significantly reduced sales of 2-day and 10-day non-resident licenses. Non-resident 2-day fishing license sales dropped from 130,000 in 2015 to 109,000 in 2017.

We also support the Council's pursuit of General Fund monies to generate Montana's AIS program funding. AIS are a concern that will affect all Montanans; therefore, using General Fund dollars to help fund Montana's AIS Program allows all that will be potentially affected to help fund the Program that will also provide the solution.

We fully support funding Montana's AIS Program through a motorized watercraft-generated fuel tax. We commend Montana's Walleyes Unlimited for their innovation in bringing this potential source of funding to light.

We urge the Council to continue to fund a portion of the AIS Program with hydroelectric power funds. In state AIS programs across the country, Montana was unique in using hydroelectric fees to generate much of our AIS Program's funding. These fees not only provided much of our AIS Program's funding, but provided a necessary awareness to all users that could potentially be affected by an AIS invasion. We have been lucky that to date we have been unaffected by AIS at our power generation facilities. If AIS invades our waters, hydroelectric facilities would be greatly affected. What then? Reinstate a fee that has been previously omitted? We urge the Council to continue funding our AIS Program through this unique and innovative source.

We strongly urge the Council to not pursue any form of commercial watercraft fee to help fund our AIS Program. Just as the nonresident fishing license fee was a punishment towards nonresident anglers, this fee would be an unwarranted punishment to guides and outfitters across Montana that are our leaders in protecting our waters from AIS and bringing AIS awareness to our clients and so many others that use the waters of Montana for recreation. This unwarranted fee on commercial users would also be an additional financial burden adding to the fees already paid for a non-motorized or motorized, resident or non-resident watercraft fee, or their fees already paid for their resident or non-resident fishing license. Further, the fee would be an additional financial expense in addition to the fees paid by their resident or non-resident paying clients coming to Montana to experience our great water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on Council's AIS funding proposal. We commend their hard work and dedication to generate this proposal through long meetings over the last year. We eagerly look forward to working with you and the Council on this important issue.

Take care,

Devin Scheurn

From: John Talley
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 4:16:02 PM

Ms. Stockwell,

I'm a guide in Montana and I am offended, quite frankly, that law makers are considering adding another 100\$ to what it would cost me to be a guide in this great state. We as guides are front runners in educating out of state people about invasive species in our Waters. Please continue obtaining funding through hydro electric power sources.

Thanks
John M Talley

From: jason
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS FUNDING PROPOSAL
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:37:16 PM

Dear Hope:

I'm writing to express my concerns on the Environmental Quality Council's (Council) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

I urge the Council to continue to fund a portion of the AIS Program with hydroelectric power funds. I find it ridiculous that the council is considering discontinuing requiring funds from the hydroelectric funds as they are the group that stands the most to lose. These fees not only provided much of our AIS Program's funding, but provided a necessary awareness to all users that could potentially be affected by an AIS invasion. We have been lucky that to date we have been unaffected by AIS at our power generation facilities. If AIS invades our waters, hydroelectric facilities would be greatly affected. What then? Reinstate a fee that has been previously omitted? We urge the Council to continue funding our AIS Program through this unique and innovative source.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on Council's AIS funding.

Thanks,
Jason Fleury

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Brian Grand
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:47:37 PM

AIS Program

The state of Montana has waited til the barn is on fire to address AIS. There has been a check station at Clearwater Junction for 8 years. Only now that AIS was found in Montana we are scrambling to fund and defend. And defending by wasting huge amounts of money. The check station at Clearwater is open 10-12 hrs with only a morning rush and employs 2-4 people. You have checked my boat every DAY! same questions same check over and its barely left the county. And you have punished the nonresident fisherman by the added fee and are losing money on the in state fisherman. And losing money over all.

PROTECT OUR BORDERS!!! Make it a mandatory check and clean at the borders and issue a launch stamp per vessel. It's not the fisherman its the boats. Reduce the redundancy at the check stations and the waste of labor. There is not a check station on highway 93 south!! You can put in on three major rivers and several lakes without going through a check station.

If you just make commercial boats have to have a permit you are borderline on discrimination against guides and outfitters if the same permit does not apply to ALL vessels.

Brian Grand
P O Box 727
4231 S. Cougar Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870
(406) 531-8822
Bgrand@pescaderioguiideservice.com
MT Guide #13509
ID Guide #18838-G
WA Guide #Pending

From: Evan
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS funding proposal
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 6:49:14 PM

"Dear Hope:

I'm writing on behalf of our 800-plus members and Board of Directors of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM) to express our comments on the Environmental Quality Council's (Council) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

We fully support the Council's work and understanding to generate AIS Program funding through a more equitably-represented fishing license fee between resident and non-residents. The disproportionate fee significantly reduced sales of 2-day and 10-day non-resident licenses. Non-resident 2-day fishing license sales dropped from 130,000 in 2015 to 109,000 in 2017.

We also support the Council's pursuit of General Fund monies to generate Montana's AIS program funding. AIS are a concern that will affect all Montanans; therefore, using General Fund dollars to help fund Montana's AIS Program allows all that will be potentially affected to help fund the Program that will also provide the solution.

We fully support funding Montana's AIS Program through a motorized watercraft-generated fuel tax. We commend Montana's Walleyes Unlimited for their innovation in bringing this potential source of funding to light.

We urge the Council to continue to fund a portion of the AIS Program with hydroelectric power funds. In state AIS programs across the country, Montana was unique in using hydroelectric fees to generate much of our AIS Program's funding. These fees not only provided much of our AIS Program's funding, but provided a necessary awareness to all users that could potentially be affected by an AIS invasion. We have been lucky that to date we have been unaffected by AIS at our power generation facilities. If AIS invades our waters, hydroelectric facilities would be greatly affected. What then? Reinstate a fee that has been previously omitted? We urge the Council to continue funding our AIS Program through this unique and innovative source."

Thanks,
Evan Youngblood
Professional fishing guide
Missoula, Montana

From: Scott Vollmer
To: Staciell, Staci
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal
Date: Thursday, July 19, 2018 12:10:28 PM

Dear Hope,

I have recently become aware of the new proposed funding of AIS by the Environmental Quality Council. As a member of both the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA) and the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM), I am writing you to express my concerns and comments on the Environmental Quality Council's (EQC) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

I am very supportive of the EQC's work to generate AIS Program funding through a more equitably-represented fishing license fee between resident and non-residents. The disproportionate fee significantly reduced sales of 2-day and 10-day non-resident licenses. Non-resident 2-day fishing license sales dropped from 130,000 in 2015 to 109,000 in 2017. Simply put, the fee structure served as a disincentive for non-residents to fish and spend their hard-earned dollars in Montana, most likely deciding to fish elsewhere. We cannot ignore the impact that non-residents have on our state. Outfitting has recently been shown to be 4th in expenditures within the tourism sector, trailing only food, fuel, and lodging. A large portion of these Outfitting expenditures come from non-residents, who are the very people who are taxed the most with the current AIS fee structure.

Likewise, I am also supportive of the EQC's pursuit of General Fund monies to generate Montana's AIS program funding. AIS are a concern that will affect all Montanans; therefore, using General Fund dollars to help fund Montana's AIS Program allows all that will be potentially affected to help fund the Program that will also provide the solution.

I fully support funding Montana's AIS Program through a motorized watercraft-generated fuel tax. I commend Montana's Walleyes Unlimited for their innovation in bringing this potential source of funding to light.

I urge the EQC to continue to fund a portion of the AIS Program with hydroelectric power funds. In state AIS programs across the country, Montana was unique in using hydroelectric fees to generate much of our AIS Program's funding. We have been lucky to date that we have been unaffected by AIS at our power generation facilities. Like fishing outfitters, hydroelectric facilities are stakeholders in clean Montana water and will be impacted by potential AIS invasions. All stakeholders should equally share the burden of funding for AIS, and this unique and innovative source of funding accomplishes this goal.

I strongly urge the Council to not pursue any form of commercial watercraft fee to help fund our AIS Program. Just as the nonresident fishing license fee is a punishment towards nonresident anglers, this fee would be an unwarranted punishment to guides and outfitters across Montana who are our leaders in protecting our waters from AIS and bringing AIS awareness to our clients and to many others that use the waters of Montana for recreation. Despite empirical evidence, I am certain through anecdotal evidence that fishing outfitters and guides are our leaders in keeping invasive species out of our state. Common sense can only lead to this assertion - our financial lives depend on clean Montana waters. To me, a fee that targets the very people who are working the hardest to thwart AIS in Montana is punitive. As stakeholders in clean Montana water, this would lead to another disproportionate tax on the very people who are driving the financial windfall that is brought to our state within the general realm of tourism expenditures. Like I stated before, all stakeholders should share in the burden of AIS funding. Therefore, if the EQC determines that watercraft fees are necessary, then the equitable solution is one where all watercraft should be assessed a fee. It is my belief that all watercraft should even include inflatables used for pleasure floating (i.e. inner tubes, etc). Everyone who enjoys the great water resources of our state are stakeholders in clean Montana water; therefore, everyone who enjoys these waters should be willing to shoulder an equal burden in keeping them that way.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on the EQC's AIS funding proposal. I commend their hard work and dedication to generate this proposal through long meetings over the last year. I understand that funding for AIS is a difficult and complex task, one that I am more than willing to help in so that we can have an AIS program that is equitable and progressive. I fully believe that collaboration with MOGA and FOAM can lead to a program that is the envy of our nation and I look forward to helping in this endeavor.

Respectfully yours,

Scott

Scott Vollmer, MT Outfitter #26303

Scott Vollmer Outfitting, LLC

PO Box 468

Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

(406) 788-4277

<https://na01.aeflinks.protection.outlook.com?w%7C02a8e4ed0f546b476cb08d5ed3e51e0%7C007e94c9830f4abbb7ed63f87204c02%7C09%7C1%7C636657774275288137&data=QAbYRzbfUjQEIkq2dTr%28fmdmxiqK1Az%2BpYlkgATDyfpz%3D&reserved=0>

url=www.scottvollmeroutfitting.com&data=02%7C01%7Chtstockwell%ef0mt.gov%7C02a8e4ed0f546b476cb08d5ed3e51e0%7C007e94c9830f4abbb7ed63f87204c02%7C09%7C1%7C636657774275288137&data=QAbYRzbfUjQEIkq2dTr%28fmdmxiqK1Az%2BpYlkgATDyfpz%3D&reserved=0

Sent from my iPad

From: Dylan Riis
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: Ais funding
Date: Thursday, July 19, 2018 7:11:26 AM

I'm writing on behalf of our 800-plus members and Board of Directors of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM) to express our comments on the Environmental Quality Council's (Council) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

We strongly urge the Council to not pursue any form of commercial watercraft fee to help fund our AIS Program. Just as the nonresident fishing license fee was a punishment towards nonresident anglers, this fee would be an unwarranted punishment to guides and outfitters across Montana that are our leaders in protecting our waters from AIS and bringing AIS awareness to our clients and so many others that use the waters of Montana for recreation. This unwarranted fee on commercial users would also be an additional financial burden adding to the fees already paid for a non-motorized or motorized, resident or non-resident watercraft fee, or their fees already paid for their resident or non-resident fishing license. Further, the fee would be an additional financial expense in addition to the fees paid by their resident or non-resident paying clients coming to Montana to experience our great water.

Sincerely,
Dylan Riis

From: John Dominick
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding proposal
Date: Thursday, July 19, 2018 9:59:10 PM

Ms. Stockwell,

I'm an outfitter and guide in Montana and against charging a \$100 commercial use fee to fund the AIS program.

Thanks for your time,
John S. Dominick
10619 Kelly Canyon Rd
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: Allan Gadoury
To: Stockwell, Hope
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 4:03:22 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell

I have been a licensed MT Outfitter since 1979. It's a small high quality operation, just me, the only guide. Most of my clients do walk trips on the spring creeks near Livingston or hunt upland birds near Lewistown. I fish lakes from my drift boat about 6 days a year. I pay landowners a trespass fee and pay for special use permits from BLM and State Lands Dept. I also pay for my outfitters license and the required insurance. Adding an additional \$100 fee to my boat is unfair and places an undo burden on a very small business.

Regards

Al Gadoury
6X Outfitters
Bozeman, MT